

Opportunity Scholarship

Terms and Conditions 2023/24. For students
who commenced their studies **between 2014/15**
and 2023/24

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Updated June 2023



1. If you are a UK undergraduate student and you commenced your studies at Newcastle between the 2014/15 academic year and the 2023/24 academic year then you may be eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship. You need to meet the conditions detailed in this document in order to be considered for the scholarship.

2. You need to have a household income figure **at or below £35,000** to be considered for the Opportunity Scholarship.

3. In order to be considered for the scholarship you need to be income assessed by Student Finance England (SFE), Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland or the Student Awards Agency for Scotland. **There are no exceptions to this as the University does not complete income assessments.**

4. When completing the income assessment you need to ensure that you have **consented to share** your household income details with the University in order to be considered for a scholarship. If you are unsure if you have done this then you should contact the Student Loans Company (SLC) on 0300 100 0612.

5. If you have been classified as **independent** by SFE (or equivalent) then they will consider your household income to be your personal income (or your personal income and that of your partner). Any enquiries regarding a change of status should be directed to SFE (or equivalent).

6. Once you have completed the steps above, we will review your eligibility for a scholarship. If you are eligible then you will receive an email from the SLC between registration and early November. This will be sent to the email address that you have registered with the SLC.

If you think you are eligible for a scholarship and you have completed all required steps but you have not received an award letter by mid-November 2023 then please contact us.

7. If you are eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship you will receive one of the following awards depending on your household income:

Household income at or below £25,000 - You will receive a **£2,000 cash bursary.**

Household income between £25,001 and £35,000 - You will receive a **£1,000 cash bursary.**

8. If you are approved for the scholarship then your cash bursary payments will be split as below:

40% - 15th November 2023

30% - 7th February 2024

30% - 1st May 2024

There will be no early payments or exceptions to the above payment dates. You should allow two working days for potential delays and carefully check all bank accounts before contacting us regarding any non-payment.

9. If you are approved for the Opportunity Scholarship after the 2nd November 2023 then you will receive backdated cash bursary payments **10 working days** after your scholarship has been approved.

10. Your eligibility for the Opportunity Scholarship is reassessed each year based upon your income assessment with SFE (or equivalent). We do not take into account any scholarship eligibility from previous years.

11. If you are on placement then you will **not** be considered for the Opportunity Scholarship as you will be receiving a significant tuition fee discount. However, if you are studying a partial placement and you are liable to pay the full tuition fee then you **will** be considered for a scholarship.

12. If you are studying **Business Accounting and Finance** you will have a reduced fee liability in years 2, 3 and 4 as you will be on work placement. If you are eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship you will receive a pro rata award of either a **£1,332 cash bursary** or a **£666 cash bursary in years 2, 3 and 4** depending on your household income.

13. If you are **repeating part of a year** or you are **studying part time** then you will have a reduced fee liability. In this scenario you will receive a pro rata Opportunity Scholarship (e.g. you are paying 50% of the total tuition fee then you will receive 50% of the scholarship).

14. Your eligibility for the Opportunity Scholarship is continually reviewed. Failure to continue meeting the eligibility criteria could lead to your scholarship being cancelled. When this happens we will cancel all future bursary payments but you will not

normally need to repay any instalments that you have already received.

15. You will not be considered for the Opportunity Scholarship under the following circumstances:

- a.** You already hold a degree at honours level or equivalent.
- b.** You are receiving full or partial support from the NHS as a grant (e.g. you are studying **Speech and Language Science, Dental Hygiene** or you are in your **final year of medicine or Dentistry**).
- c.** You are studying a course leading to a PGCE qualification.
- d.** You are already in receipt of the Promise Scholarship, the Faraday Institution Scholarship or the Stephen Lawrence Bursary Award.

Many of the allied health profession students can access support of at least £5,000 per year from September 2020 in addition to SLC finance. If you receive this bursary you will not be eligible for the Opportunity Scholarship. For more information about this grant visit the [NHS Health Careers website](#).

Please note that these rules are guided by government regulations stipulated by the Office for Students and **no exceptions** can be made.

16. You will not receive the scholarship, or receive backdated payments if your income assessment is completed, or you are reassessed after **Friday 7th June 2024** or if you fail to provide your bank details to SFE (or equivalent) before then.

17. The University reserves the right to terminate your Opportunity Scholarship and recover any payments made in the event you fail to continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the award.

18. If you withdraw or suspend your studies then **you may be required to repay part or all of your scholarship** depending on the date that you leave the University.

Please refer to the table below for further details regarding your cash bursary entitlement if you withdraw or suspend your studies.

Last date of attendance:	Instalment 1: 15 th November 2023	Instalment 2: 7 th February 2024	Instalment 3: 1 st May 2024
18 th September 2023 - 14 th November 2023	Not entitled to any Scholarship		
15 th November 2023 - 6 th February 2024	Entitled to Instalment 1	Not entitled to Scholarship	
7 th February 2024 - 30 th April 2024	Entitled to Instalment 1 & 2		Not entitled to Scholarship
1 st May 2024 - 7 th June 2024	Entitled to full Scholarship		

Student Health and Wellbeing Service

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ncl.ac.uk/student-financial-support